

# THE MEDICAL NEWS AND LIBRARY.

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April 1st, 1844.	JOHN CURWEN, M.D.		

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trating of Eye, 1, Penetrating of Knee-joint, 1, Lacerated of Vagina, 1; Gun-shot, 4; Retention of Urine, 1. Total, 75.

Cases Discharged.	Cured.	Relieved.	Not Relieved.	Died.	Total.
Abscess, Chronic of Mamma, 1	-	-	-	-	1
Cataract, - - -	-	-	1	-	1
Caries, - - -	2	1	-	1	4
Coxalgia, - - -	1	-	1	-	2
Contusions, - - -	14	-	-	1	15
Enlargement of Prostate, -	-	1	-	-	1
of Tonsils, 1	-	-	-	-	1
Fistula in Perineo, - 2	-	-	-	-	2
in Ano, - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Fracture of Clavicle, - 1	-	-	-	-	1
of Humerus, 1	1*	-	-	-	2
of Radius, - 2	-	-	-	-	2
of Forearm, com. 1†	-	-	-	-	1
of Hand, do 1†	-	-	-	-	2
of Femur, - 4	-	-	-	-	4
of Leg, - 5	-	-	-	-	5
of Fibula, - 3	-	-	-	-	3
Furunculus, - - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Harelip, - - -	-	-	1	-	1
Hydrocele, - - -	-	-	1	-	1
Hernia, Strang. umbilical, -	-	-	-	1	1
Inflammation of Knee-joint, 1	-	-	-	-	1
Paronychia, - - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Scald, - - - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Sprain of ankle, - 2	-	-	-	-	2
Tumour, fibrous of mam-	-	-	-	-	-
ma, - - 1†	-	-	-	-	1
Scrofulous, - 2	-	-	-	-	2
Ulcer, - - - 3	-	-	-	-	3
Venereal diseases, - 10	-	-	-	-	10
Wounds, Lacerated, 3	-	-	-	-	3
Incised of Scalp, 4	-	-	-	-	4
Contused of	-	-	-	-	-
Scalp, - 4	-	-	-	2	6
Incised of limbs, 2	-	-	-	-	2
Punctured of	-	-	-	-	-
Thigh, - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Gun-shot, - - 1	-	1	-	1	2
Retention of Urine, - 1	-	-	-	-	1
Total,	77	4	4	6	91

— Kline, aged 24, was admitted 5th March, into the Medical Ward, as labouring under intermittent fever. It was soon observed, however, that the symptoms were very irregular, and he began to complain of pain and soreness about the occiput. In a few days a swelling was perceived in this

\* Removed by friends.

† By removal.

† By amputation.

region, and an abscess at length formed, and was opened. The pus discharged was very fetid, and unhealthy in character, and with a probe a considerable extent of bone (the posterior part of the right parietal and temporal) could be felt entirely bare. He was transferred to the surgical ward.

Pus, of a yellowish-green colour and of a very offensive smell, continued to be discharged for many weeks in considerable quantity, and the strength and health of the patient became progressively more and more exhausted. He had frequent, but irregular chills, and profuse night sweats; shortly after he entered the surgical ward, his left shoulder became painful and partially paralyzed; but this difficulty very soon disappeared under the employment of a stimulating liniment, and we were inclined to regard it as a rheumatic affection of the shoulder.

On the 6th April he was quite delirious, heard with great difficulty, and seemed scarcely able to comprehend what was said to him even when he was made to hear: vision impaired; pupils of equal size, but rather sluggish: no nausea; apparently no paralysis of limbs or face: pulse more frequent than natural, but feeble; headache; temperature of skin variable. A blister was applied to back of neck; stimulating enemata and pediluvia, mild diaphoretics, &c.

April 9th. The above unpleasant symptoms have very much disappeared: somewhat delirious at night, but not during the day.

14th. Skin for several days much jaundiced, urine of a bilious colour; left pupil much smaller than right, function of left eye almost completely destroyed; slight strabismus of the eye; considerable œdema of left side of face and neck; left eyelid remains almost motionless, either from paralysis or from the œdema; (patient reposes altogether on left side,) pulse frequent and feeble; strength so much reduced that he is unable to stand. On attempting to walk, one evening, he fell and had a slight convulsion.

16th. Increased swelling of left side of face and neck; conjunctiva of left eye raised up in a large bulla from the serous effusion; conjunctiva of right eye similarly affected, but to a slighter degree; left pupil contracted to the size of a pin's head; decided paralysis of right shoulder, no paralysis of the right arm, nor of the left members, nor of the face and tongue; strabismus as before; swallows without difficulty; voids his urine and faces

freely: no heat of head; face pallid; skin cool; tongue dry; no nausea nor vomiting; respiration laboured 34 in the minute; slight cough occasionally; no expectoration. Died on the 17th May.

For the last week porter was allowed him in moderate quantity, with animal broth, &c., and from the time of his entrance he took quinine in solution, with an additional quantity of aromatic sulphuric acid.

*Autopsy*, 14 hours after death. Emaciation; jaundiced hue of skin very decided and general; some œdema of face; moderate rigidity of limbs. Over a large part of the posterior portion of the parietal and temporal bones of the right side, the scalp was completely separated from the bone, with a small quantity of pus interposed between the two. The convolutions of the brain presented no peculiarity of appearance, their consistence being good, and no adhesions existing between the cortical substance and the membranes. The internal structure of the brain was of good consistence and appeared healthy excepting in a small space between the mammillary bodies and the optic commissure, at which point the cerebral structure was pale and softened; the optic nerves did not appear to be softened, nor the commissure.

The fossa occupied by the cerebellum contained a large quantity of pus of a foetid smell and of a clay colour, which appeared to flow from the medullary canal, and on carefully examining the parietes of the upper part of the spinal canal, the first, second, and third cervical vertebræ were found to be carious and roughened in a high degree, and the posterior wall of the great occipital foramen was in a similar condition. The muscles on the back of the neck were largely dissected from the bones by the pus, which also communicated freely with the interior of the spinal canal by means of ulcerated openings between the occipital bone and the atlas, and between the latter and the second cervical vertebra. Even lower down than the third vertebra the spinal canal contained pus.

The temporal bone just behind and above the external auditory foramen, opposite the point at which the abscess was opened, was completely perforated, as was likewise the dura mater, so that the pus passed directly from the external abscess into the lateral sinus. The interior of the petrous portion of the bone was in a state of caries, almost

completely excavated, and containing pus, which however did not communicate with the internal ear. The lateral sinus at the point at which it passes from the cranium was completely obliterated and blocked up by a firm coagulum of fibrine which prevented the direct introduction of the pus into the head.

The sella turcica was in a state of caries, and the pituitary gland softened. The liver was firm, of a yellowish tinge and contained no pus; kidneys and bladder healthy; spleen three or four times its natural size, and very much indurated; heart a little enlarged; several spots, as if of old lymph, on its pericardial surface: the sac contained no serum. The lungs generally crepitant; numerous small indurated points scattered throughout them, particularly in the right lung; when cut into, these spots were found to be red and granulated, and in one or two of them a minute quantity of pus existed. At the base of left lung was a large bony deposit, just beneath the pleura. Both lungs were firmly attached to the costal pleura, by strong bands of lymph of old formation. The pleural cavities contained an ounce or two of bloody serum, (effused probably in the act of death!) without flocculi of lymph or pus.

An individual was brought to the Hospital having a contused wound of the scalp. He was found in the street in a state of the most complete intoxication, unable to give any account of himself. We ascertained afterwards that his habits were very depraved, and that he was habitually intemperate. The wound was apparently very trifling, situated over the anterior part of the right parietal bone near its junction with the frontal bone, and about an inch above the squamous suture of the temporal bone. The wound was very superficial, not extending to the bone, and bled but very little. The appearance of the wound was such as to lead us to suppose that it was occasioned by a fall on the curb-stone.

During the night of his admission he slept soundly. On the next morning, we found him with complete paralysis of the facial and auditory nerves of the left side; the mouth was drawn strongly towards the right side, and the tongue when protruded pointed towards the left; his articulation was very much impaired; mind perfectly clear; pupils natural; sensation perfect; no paralysis of limbs. The pulse was scarcely at all excited in force or frequency, and the skin of medium tempe-



ture, tongue slightly furred: he complained only of soreness about the wound. His bowels were freely acted upon by a blue pill followed by salts: and hot applications were kept to his feet, while cold was applied to the head. For a few days no new symptom was observed, excepting that blood oozed continually from the left ear. He had no increase of arterial action.

On the morning of the fourth day he became affected with erysipelas of the scalp; this spread rapidly, invading the face and neck, and was accompanied by a considerable degree of fever. To relieve this train of symptoms, alterative doses of blue pill were administered, with saline laxatives and diaphoretics, and cold mucilage was applied to the head and face. The paralysis did not appear to increase, nor did it diminish; the discharge from the ear became purulent and very foetid indeed. The erysipelas gradually diminished in intensity, and on the 20th day from its invasion had almost entirely disappeared from the parts attacked, leaving only a moderate degree of œdema. He was now seized with pneumonia of a low form and sank on the 10th day from his admission.

On examining very carefully the convex surface of the cranium we could find no fissure, the wound in the scalp had not even reached the bone. But in the interior of the cranium, on the superior face of the petrous bone of the left side just over the internal auditory canal, the bone was fractured and a small portion of it depressed upon the facial and auditory nerves as they lay side by side; the cavity of the bone was filled with pus: the membranes over the point of fracture were ecchymosed, and inflamed in a very circumscribed extent. The vessels which ramified on the surface of the brain, were filled with blood, particularly on the right side, where, at a spot immediately opposite the wound was a superficial effusion of blood just beneath the membranes, the cortical substance immediately surrounding the clot, which was of the size of a 50 cent piece, was softened, elsewhere the brain was in a natural condition. The viscera were healthy with the exception of the lungs, of which the right was in the first stage of pneumonia, and the left very much congested.

The case of umbilical hernia occurred in a female aged 50. For fifteen years past she had had a protrusion of omentum which, however, troubled her but little except from its size. Two days prior to her admission into

the Hospital, the tumour increased in size and became painful and tender, and she was seized with stercoraceous vomiting. At the time of her entrance the tumour was about 8 or 9 inches in circumference, firm, of a bluish red colour, tender on pressure, and of a temperature somewhat elevated: there was considerable distension of the abdomen, and the patient was very weak. The operation was performed soon after her admission, by Dr. Norris. The integuments were thin, but very firmly adhering to the sac, requiring close dissection; the stricture, which was found to be very firm, was divided and the protruded intestine restored. The pain and distress subsided soon after the operation, but the woman grew more and more feeble, vomiting occasionally the same kind of matter as before, and died about 24 hours after the operation.

We found on examining the abdomen after death, that about two inches of the ileum at a point about eight feet above the valve, had been protruded, but the intestine was now completely within the belly. The coats of the intestine were livid in colour, and a small perforation had taken place from sphacelus, through which, however, no fecal matter had escaped. The peritoneum around the perforation was in a state of commencing inflammation.

F. W. SARGENT, M. D.

*Resident Surgeon.*

Penna. Hospital, May 21, 1844.

#### SKETCHES AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF MEDICAL DELUSIONS.

*Quackery and its Pretensions.* "If an arrogant pretender, or a benevolent enthusiast, were to call upon a manufacturer or mill-owner, and to tell him that his cloth was not good nor well-finished, or that his damask was not perfect, the pattern not clear, and the fabric of a bad sort—and add, that he had a certain oil or spirit, which being mixed with the wool, or rubbed on the machinery, would put all right, and make his cloth or damask the very best that could be produced—that it made no matter whether the machinery was bad in kind, or broken, or worn out, or out of repair—or whether the engine man neglected his duties—or whether the workmen were in disorder—or whether the governing and directing head of the establishment was incompetent—or whether the wool with which the

machinery was fed was of a uniform bad quality—no matter what was the cause of the cloth or the damask being imperfect—only rub the crown of the head of the engine with this wonderful oil or spirit, and pour two table-spoonsful of it every morning into the wool, when it was put to the slubbing machine, and that would cure all defects—would not the proposal be laughed at, by every workman about the premises, as outrageously absurd? And why? Because the workmen *understand* the machinery and business in which they are employed.”

The preceding observations are taken from an interesting lecture recently delivered before the Wakefield Mechanics’ Institution, by Dr. T. G. Wright, on the subject of quack medicines. A similar sentiment has been expressed by Dr. Marshall Hall in his Gulstonian lectures. “There are no quacks amongst the engineers, because every one knows that an engine must be understood by him who would repair it. When this truth obtains in regard to medicine, then, and not till then, will that most complicated of machines, the human frame, cease to be confided, in the derangement of its functions, or the diseases of its structure, to any one who is ignorant of the many springs of its action and principles of its composition.”

Ignorance and quackery are so intimately allied, that the one is rarely found without the other, and the only effectual method of restraining the practice of empiricism is by so far enlightening the community as to place them above receiving the delusion. Health and disease, the sense of pain, and the pressure of sickness and suffering, are the concern of everybody; engineering, on the other hand, is the special occupation of a few. It admits, therefore, of question how far it is practicable, in the present state of society, and amid the multifarious calls upon the time of individuals connected with their special occupation, to infuse into the whole community such an amount of knowledge in relation to the construction of the human machine, its modes of action, and its preservation in a state of repair, as shall suffice to prevent them from inconsiderately exposing themselves to the malpractices of the quack. The incompetent engineer, too, who ventures to meddle with a piece of machinery, without understanding its powers and the mechanism of its construction, not only runs the risk of injuring the machine, which possibly he might make little account

of, or disregard; but if it be in action at the time, as in the analogy attempted to be drawn in the case of the human body, he will probably himself suffer, in life, or limb, the penalty for his rashness in intermeddling with that which he does not understand. No doubt, were a part of the physical mischief resulting from the practice of empiricism to fall upon the empiric himself—were the administration of every dose of Morison’s pills to entail upon the exhibitor a portion of the effects under which the unhappy patient too often suffers, the number of those who thus work out for themselves a portion of the mammon of unrighteousness, to the certain injury of their fellow-creatures, would be considerably diminished. The length of time also which must elapse, even if the attempt to convey the requisite knowledge were immediately entered upon, before the desirable end of checking imposture through the banishment of ignorance could be attained, and the consequent amount of suffering which must till then be inflicted and endured, would induce us to urge the adoption of more immediate remedial measures, which shall involve the quack himself, and shall make him feel in person for the suffering which his selfish recklessness and want of principle entail upon others.

While the adoption of measures to place, as far as practicable, every member of the community without the sphere of empiricism, and above the influence of the quack, ought by no means to be neglected, we would at the same time render it penal for any one to undertake the management of disease whose competence to do so had not been duly tested and legally certified.

All legal protection should at once be removed from quack medicines, and so far from the plea of ignorance being admitted as an excuse for the maladministration of powerful drugs, it ought, on the contrary, to be considered as an aggravation of the offence, and subject the offender to the most severe, instead of the most mitigated sentence which the law directs.

There is, however, unhappily, a species of empiricism which professes to be based upon knowledge, and a class of empirics existing also among the legally qualified; and the mode of dealing with quackery of this description, and with those who thus practise it, becomes much more difficult. Credulity is a principle deeply implanted in human nature; the love of the marvellous



exercises a strong influence over the imagination, and too often leads astray the judgment; and to guard against the undue exercise of these principles, without running into unwarranted scepticism on the one hand, or suppressing every manifestation of one of the highest qualities of mind on the other, is perhaps scarcely, if at all, practicable. Few minds, and only those of the most gifted of mankind, are so constituted—so nicely balanced, if the expression may be allowed—as to take the just medium between credulity and scepticism, or to allow imagination its full play, and at the same time preserve the judgment cool, clear, and intact. Now, it unfortunately happens that the more ardent in temperament, as well cultivators of medical as of general science, are sometimes led astray by specious theories, and the records of medicine are sullied by the introduction of systems of empiricism, involving in their meshes the educated and licensed practitioner as deeply as the amateur professor. No legal provision, no penalty but that of suffering experience, can avail in such cases; and yet the sheer and unblushing quackery, both of the professional and non-professional empiric, which is from time to time based upon theories, so called, of medicine, is in its effects amongst the worst that rears the head and front of its offending amongst us.

What penalties, for instance, can reach, what legal restrictions impede, the practices where conducted by licensed—we will not say qualified—practitioners of medicine, of homœopathy, of hydropathy, or of Mesmerism? The elegant inertness of the first of these, the clumsy and dangerous activity of the second, and the absolute folly of the last, have each found advocates among graduated practitioners of medicine, and victims among the titled, the wealthy, and the intelligent, as well as the poverty-stricken and the ignorant. What can avail, painful and dear-bought experience excepted, against such delusions as these? Still the impudent quackery with which these systems are severally enveloped, by many of those who practise them, may be brought under some control. Mesmerism, homœopathy, and hydropathy, must live their day, and will for a time be practised as medical arts. The medical practitioner, however, who, in his attempts to carry out either of them, shall follow unworthy methods of forcing himself and his system into notoriety, is not only deceived

himself, or a deceiver of others, but, at the same time, as essentially a quack as the veriest itinerant vender of nostrums that ever cheated the frequenters of fairs and wakes of their hard-earned pence.

—  
*Quackery in New York.*—New York seems to be the most comfortable place for quacks, with the exception of Boston, in the whole Union. The notorious Williams, after having been exposed in nearly every other city he dared to visit, sat down there and flourished for years. The two Crawcours, by acting alternately the livery servant, while the other personated the fine gentleman, succeeded in swindling the inhabitants of New York, it is said, out of thirty thousand dollars in a very short time.

Of late there has been a new species of quackery copied from the *soi disant* Doctor Turnbull, of London, whose puffing articles about prussic acid in eye diseases, have not yet ceased to go the rounds of the newspapers, and whose stories concerning the efficacy of the alkaloids, are occasionally repeated. Taking advantage of Turnbull's plans, a practitioner in New York is said to have gulled the citizens out of thousands of dollars with the pretence that he was supplying them with expensive medicines. With the utmost plausibility he writes a prescription, for half an ounce or an ounce of *aconitine*, for example, the price of which is a dollar and a quarter a grain, or six hundred dollars an ounce; saying, at the same time, the medicine might be either obtained from him or from any apothecary; but to be certain of its purity and honest preparation, it should be obtained from himself. The patient, to his astonishment, finds out that there are really such expensive medicines, and being persuaded by mistaken friends, and the assertions of the quack, concludes to make every sacrifice to purchase what he fondly, but vainly, believes will restore his sight, and prefers to take the medicine from the prescriber rather than from another source. Now it is known to medical men that even the fiftieth of a grain of *aconitine* has produced serious effects, and that it is about as powerful a poison as prussic acid. The quack well knows that half an ounce of *aconitine* would kill two hundred people, and takes very good care to put into the mixture, either none of the expensive medicine at all, or only a safe quantity.

## FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Localization of Poisons.*—MM. DANGER and FLANDIN in a letter read to the French Academy of Sciences on the 15th April last, claim to have first pointed out "that in a dog poisoned by antimony, no matter what mode be adopted, the metal cannot be found in the lungs, the heart, the muscles, or the bones, even when the poison was introduced by the lungs under the form of antimoniated hydrogen gas; it is especially in the *liver, spleen, kidneys, and urine*, that the poison is to be met with. That in poisoning by copper, this metal is not to be found in the heart, lungs, kidneys, urine, muscles, bones, or nervous system; but in the *liver, spleen, and intestines*. That in poisoning by lead, the metal is to be found in the *liver, spleen, kidneys, urine, and lungs*; not in the heart, muscles, bones, or nervous system."

*Erection of Stoves.*—In an anonymous paper "on the injuries occasioned by breathing impure air in close apartments," it is recommended that stoves should be constructed of masonry throughout, as in many other countries, or of fire-tiles, or porcelain plates imbedded in mortar, with well regulated flues, as they would then be far preferable to open fire-places, the substitution of imperfect conductors of heat being not only consistent with the principles of economy in the preservation of heat, and its more uniform distribution through apartments, but more salubrious than the methods usually resorted to in this country, of warming air by contact with iron stoves or pipes.—*Med. Times*, 20th April, 1844, from *Lond. Med. Gaz.*

*Why are Acids Refrigerants?*—Dr. MURRAY's explanation, in his *System of Materia Medica*, is, that animal temperature is derived from the consumption of oxygen gas by respiration; that acids containing large proportions of oxygen in a rather loose state of combination, reduce the general temperature when introduced into the stomach, if that temperature be materially increased; for acids, especially vegetable acids, are readily assimilated with the food, and the nutritious matter received into the blood, containing a larger proportion than usual, will abstract less of it from the air in the lungs, and consequently less caloric will be evolved; temperature is thus reduced as well as the power and force of the heart's contractions: Dr. Murray illustrates this by the case of the

It is said that a certain professor tried to play "the aconitine trick," but from want of plausibility or not knowing his man, was obliged to disgorge the hundreds he had thus swindled.

Those who have suffered from this species of imposition, should insist upon restitution by threatening exposure; or if the amount be considerable, to obtain it by a course of law, as no jury would sustain such palpable extortion. The sum of seventy-five dollars—a poor man's all—was thus recovered from Williams, even although a written agreement to give the latter no trouble had been signed. The jury considered that the agreement had not been made in good faith, and rendered a verdict for the plaintiff. When such was the fate of Williams, it is really astonishing how other quacks have so long been able to escape the clutches of the law.

It cannot be denied that some individuals of New York have experienced benefit, but we assert that removal to the healthy air of an island, regular exercise, as walking, riding, sailing, &c., change of scene and absence from domestic cares, do quite as much for the restoration of health, as expensive medicines from unprincipled speculators.—*Boston Med. and Surg. Journal*.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

## DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*American Medical Biography.*—Prof. Stephen W. Williams, of Deerfield, Mass. proposes to publish by subscription "*American Medical Biography: or memoirs of eminent physicians, embracing principally those who have died since the publication of Dr. Thatcher's work on the same subject.*"

*Albany Medical College.* The number of students during the past session was 108. Of these 20 received the degree of M.D. at the close of the term.

*University of Maryland.* Professor BARTLETT, we learn, has accepted the chair of Practice of Physic in this Institution, to which he has recently been appointed. His accession will add much to the strength of the School.

*Medical College of Georgia.* The degree of M.D. was conferred on 39 candidates at the commencement in April last.



diver, Spalding, who could not remain long below the water after feeding on animal food, &c.—*Ibid.*

—  
*Laryngotomy in Polypus of the Larynx.*

M. HERMANN, Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, Strasburg, in a letter read to the Academy of Sciences on the 1st of April last, gives an account of an operation performed in order to remove a polypus, which had developed itself on one of the chordæ vocales. This fibro-cellulous excrescence had protruded between the lips of the glottis, and would have caused suffocation, if the trachea had not been opened and a canula introduced. The next day, the patient being quite calm, the thyroid cartilage was divided, and the foreign body removed.

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*Hereditary Insanity.*—M. BAILLARGER

read a memoir to the Academy of Medicine, 2d April last, with a number of statistical tables. In this memoir he endeavoured to elucidate the following questions:—1°. Is the disease oftener hereditary on the side of the mother than of the father? In 453 cases it was transmitted, by the mother 271 times, by the father 182; difference about one-third.—2°. When hereditary, does the mother transmit it to more children than the father? In the 271 families in which it was transmitted by the mother, it had manifested itself in one child in 203 cases; in two children, in 62; in three, in 5; in four, in 3;—in 346 children affected, or in 271 families, it had shown itself 70 different times, in several children—about one-fourth. In the 182 transmitted by the father, one child only was affected in 152 cases, two children in 26, three children in 4;—of 182 children, on several 30 different times, or one-sixth.—3°. Is it transmitted more frequently from the mother to the girls, or from the father to the boys? In 346, there were 197 girls, and 149 boys—difference about one-fourth. In 216, there were 128 boys, 88 girls—difference about one-third. Again, in 271 boys, 146 received the disease from their mother, and 125 from their father—difference hardly one-sixth. In 274 girls, 189 received the germ from the mother, 85 from the father—difference upwards of one-half. From these facts the author concludes:—1°. That the disease of the mother is more dangerous than that of the father, not only because it is often hereditary, but likewise because it is transmitted to a greater number

of children.—2°. That the girls are oftener affected when the disease is transmitted by the mother, and boys by the father.—3°. That its transmission from the mother to boys is not more frequent than from the father; whereas, in girls, it is twice as much.—*Med. Times*, April 13.

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*Preservation of Bodies.* M. Pigné, conservator of the Dupuytren Museum, states that the dead body or any portion of it, may be perfectly preserved in a fluid containing ten drops of creosote to the pint of water. The muscles and other tissues retain their natural flexibility and colour. Pathological preparations, also, are preserved by it in the most perfect manner; and it has furthermore the advantage of enabling us to preserve the blood globules, and various accidental productions which are destroyed by the ordinary modes of preparation.—*Prov. Med. Journal*.

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*Ulcers of the Leg.* M. Conte has published in the *Archives Générales* some cases of old ulcers of the leg, which he has treated successfully in a very simple manner. He covers the ulcer with a thin piece of gum elastic, supported by strips of adhesive plaster. At each dressing the sore is carefully cleansed with tepid water, and the layer of gum elastic changed.

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*Cancer.* Dr. Regnoli read, at the late meeting of the Italian Scientific Congress at Lucca, a statistical report, from which it appears that out of 250 persons on whom cancerous formations had been extirpated by the knife, scarcely 20 had survived three years. He is therefore induced to look upon amputation as a palliative measure only.

The Paris surgeons on the contrary seem to advocate operating in nearly all cases of cancer. In a recent debate in the French Academy, M. Roux stated he sometimes operates two or three times on the same patient in cases of relapse, and in several instances he had done so with success.

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*Opium in Uterine Hemorrhage.* Mr. DORRINGTON strongly recommends large doses of opium to combat the effects of uterine hemorrhage. He advises a fluid drachm of laudanum to be repeated once, twice, or oftener, at intervals of five, ten or fifteen minutes. Mr. Hunt administered with success six drachms in the course of four hours.—*Prov. Med. Journal*.